

Department of Workforce Development

PATH: Paternity Acknowledgment through Hospitals



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

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Section 1: Overview

Introduction

Helping children is the primary goal of PATH. A child benefits in many ways, measured and immeasurable, from knowing who his or her father is. By learning your role in the PATH program, you help parents and children get on a “path” in life that includes both parents, whether or not the family lives together.

Federal law and Wisconsin law require that each birthing hospital have trained, designated staff who explain to unmarried parents the rights and responsibilities of, and the alternatives to, voluntary paternity establishment. Parents must be given a copy of the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment form, and a verbal explanation of the form. The verbal explanation can be in the form of an audio or videotape, but a trained staff person must be available to answer questions.

PATH is based on the finding that fathers are most likely to voluntarily acknowledge their paternity around the time of birth. By participating in this training and in the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment program, you and your facility or agency are helping children make connections with their parents that can benefit them in countless ways for the rest of their lives.

Please use these training materials to assist you in offering Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment services to your patients, your clients, or your constituents. Thank you for your efforts to improve the quality of life of families in Wisconsin.

Who participates in PATH

Non-hospital entities may participate in PATH, even though Wisconsin uses the acronym for “Paternity Acknowledgment Through Hospitals.” Under federal regulation, each state may decide which entities to include in PATH. As of September 1999, the following policies cover various Wisconsin entities that have contact with unmarried parents:

Hospitals: are required to participate in Wisconsin’s PATH program, under Wisconsin statute 69.14. Each birthing hospital must ensure that it has at least one trained, designated staff person. Hospitals are also required to provide Notary Public services to witness signatures.

Child support agencies: must offer voluntary acknowledgment to all parents of children in IV-D cases, but each agency has the option of offering the service to non-IV-D parents. (IV-D is the title of the Social Security Act that governs the child support program. A family is classified as IV-D if they receive public assistance or complete an application and pay a fee to request services.)

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State, County or city Vital Record Offices, Midwives, and Tribal Enrollment Offices may participate in PATH by distributing and explaining the form if they have been trained. If an agency has not been certified as trained agency, local office staff may give out a *sample* Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment (VPA) form, but parents must get a full explanation from another agency or entity before signing and filing the form. If it is clear a couple received a full explanation in the hospital, the local registrar may simply act as Notary.

Other entities, such as child welfare offices, county nurses, physicians, and community agencies may provide *sample* forms and assist young parents to understand the process. But these agencies may not supply official VPA forms.

Background

1993 Wisconsin Act 16 funded a hospital based paternity establishment pilot, later named PATH (Paternity Acknowledgment Through Hospitals). This pilot operated in three hospitals for two years (Sinai Samaritan in Milwaukee, Meriter in Madison, and Theda Clark in Neenah.) Federal legislation in 1993 and 1996 implemented nationwide requirements that birthing hospitals provide unmarried parents with a written and verbal explanation of the opportunity to voluntarily establish paternity.

Wisconsin law was updated in 1997 and 1998 to implement the federal requirements. Wisconsin also chose to provide hospitals an incentive payment for correctly filed Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment forms. Effective May 1, 1998, Wisconsin Act 191 has been in place and new Blue Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment forms have been used. Initial training was via the Educational Telephone Network (ETN), and audiotapes of that presentation were distributed.

The first statewide face-to-face training for Paternity Acknowledgment Through Hospitals in Wisconsin was conducted in 1999. This training packet content replaces information distributed at the 1999 training.

Legislation

Legislation that governs PATH is outlined in Chapters 49, 69 and 767 of state statutes. (See the Revisor of Statutes Bureau website at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/stats.html>)

The VPA form was updated in 2001 incorporating slight changes in statute related to custody, and also inserting the actual text of relevant Wisconsin statutes.

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Section 2: Instructions

Before any staff person in hospitals, vital record offices, midwives, tribal enrollment offices, or child support agencies gives parents a blank voluntary paternity acknowledgment form, that staff person must be trained. Training involves four steps:

1. Watch “Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment Training Video” from the Department of Workforce Development.
2. Carefully read the Wisconsin “Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment Rights and Responsibilities” attached to the form itself. Also read the filing instructions and fee information on the back of the form.
3. Look over the sample pamphlets provided by the Bureau of Child Support and Department of Health and Family Services.
4. Use the following instructions, and questions and answers, to add to your understanding.

Instructions for completing the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment form

- * In the hospital setting, you must approach each unmarried parent. To protect confidentiality, and be aware of potential domestic violence situations, always ask to speak to the mother alone when first addressing the subject of “the birth certificate.” If she wishes to have the father brought in to the conversation you may invite him back into the room, or arrange to give the explanation of the rights and responsibilities when he can be present.
- * Staff in child support agencies must offer the voluntary option prior to initiating a court case to establish paternity, as per federal regulation.
- * Vital records office staff, midwives, or tribal enrollment staff will respond to requests from individuals or couples.

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- * Explain that paternity is the process of making a man the legal father of the child. Explain that by establishing paternity, a man's name will go on a child's birth certificate as the child's legal father. If paternity is not established only the mother's name will appear on the birth certificate and there will be a blank where the father's name should appear.
- * Explain that the process of establishing paternity voluntarily involves both parents signing a Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment form and having their signatures notarized (witnessed by an official.) Go over the Rights and Responsibilities page inside the form. Tell them, as laid out on the form:
 - * what it means if they sign the form,
 - * what their rights and responsibilities are,
 - * what circumstances might make it *not* appropriate for them to sign the form,
 - * the benefits to the child if they do sign.
- * Ask if they have questions, and show them the toll-free number to call if they have questions later. (You will find answers to many common questions in this training packet.)
- * If they are not ready to sign the form immediately, refer them for other appropriate assistance, such as advice from an attorney, genetic testing before they sign the form, or child support agency services.
- * Ask if mom wants to establish paternity, and help her complete the form if she agrees. If the father agrees, help him complete his section. Be aware that if either parent is under age 18, they cannot sign the form without a parent or guardian present.
- * Provide notary services if the parents wish to sign the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment.
- * Let them know how to rescind (withdraw) their acknowledgment if they change their mind within 60 days (see explanation on the form itself.)
- * Help them determine what fee is appropriate, using the chart on the back of the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment form. Be sure a check for the fee is included when filing the form.
- * If they sign the form while still in the hospital or within five days of the child's birth, the hospital **MUST** mail it in to the State Vital Records office (address on the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment form). Otherwise, the parents may mail it themselves.

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- * Keep the following in mind when completing the form:
 - * Every area should be completed in black ink.
 - * If an area does not have a response a parent should put “none” in that area.
 - * Parents should print neatly in all areas

Beware of the following common oversights

Section II:

- Parents should answer “yes” or “no” concerning the child’s name

Section III:

- Parents should not sign the form until they are in front of a Notary Public. The Notary must directly witness parent’s signatures.
- Parents under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian with them when signing the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment.
- A Notary Public must witness, date and seal each signature.
- Enclose the correct filing fee.
- Send completed forms as soon as possible to:

Division of Health Care Financing
Vital Records/Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment
P.O. Box 309
Madison, WI 53701-0309

Questions and Answers

Further information on the significance of using the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment

Q. Does signing this form give the father the right to custody of the baby?

A: In Wisconsin, when the mother was not married at any time during the pregnancy, and the mother and father have not married since the birth, there is no marital presumption of paternity, and the mother has sole legal custody. However, since 2000, Wisconsin statutes have been silent as to the affect of voluntary paternity acknowledgment on the father’s custody status. It is clear that the acknowledged father has the right to petition the court for custody (decision-making authority) and physical placement (visitation).

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Or if the Child Support Agency seeks a court order for support, it may be possible to ask for custody and/or placement orders at the same time.

Any party who is concerned about the immediate effect of custody by signing or filing a VPA may want to seek advice from an attorney to learn the interpretation of their local court before signing a VPA.

Q. What are an acknowledged father's immediate rights in regard to medical decisions?

- A. Some hospitals find that the acknowledged father requests to be contacted when there are decisions to be made in the baby's health care. As in other situations where there is a "significant other" with no legal decision-making authority, the hospital should use its own policies or ethics committee to determine how much involvement the hospital will seek or accept from the father regarding the baby's medical care.

Q. How does signing this form affect the father's responsibilities to pay bills for the baby's birth and hospital care?

- A. Signing this form does not automatically obligate the father for this child's medical bills. However, the hospital is free to seek his agreement to sign as a guarantor for the child, and to sign the necessary release of information for his health insurance. If he has health insurance, the Paternity Acknowledgment will increase the likelihood that his insurer will cover the cost of the baby's care. Each insurance company may have different standards to prove a man is the father before the company accepts the infant on the insurance plan. However, insurance policies must not refuse to cover the child just because it was born out of wedlock or because the child does not live with the father.

Once this Acknowledgment has been filed with Vital Records, the court may order the father to pay support for the child. The court order may include medical support. If the pregnancy and birth was covered by Medical Assistance, the father may be repaying the state. If he has insurance, he will need to give the child support agency documentation to verify what portion of the birth costs were paid by his insurance.

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Q. What if a couple says they are planning to get married? Should they use this form?

- A. It is their choice of course, but if they *are* interested in identifying the child's father they should sign the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment right away. Unfortunately, it is possible that a break-up, or even death of one of the parents, could occur before their planned marriage. They *could* sign the Acknowledgment in front of notaries now and keep the form, pending their wedding date. After they're married, they can file a legitimation form instead, which will give the father a marital presumption.

If they file the paternity acknowledgment and then do get married, they can still file a legitimation form (see instructions on the back of the paternity statement). The legitimation filing fee will be \$20 instead of \$10 if the father's name was added first through paternity acknowledgment and then updated through legitimation.

Q. What if the mother says she already gave the information to her caseworker? Should the hospital or midwife still use this form?

- A. Mothers who receive public assistance benefits (including MA, Badger Care, W-2, and food stamps) are required to cooperate with the child support agency to establish paternity, and one way to establish paternity is to use this form. Appropriate use of this form may speed the process of her required cooperation and involvement with the child support agency.

A worker's role in explaining and assisting with filing of the form.

Q. Who do we give the forms to?

- A. Birth hospitals must have staff give the forms and pamphlets to each unmarried mother. You should also share the form and explanation with the unwed father, if he is available. That does not mean you must screen all male visitors. Work with the man as the father only if he or the mother identifies him as the father and gives permission for him to participate in the discussion.

Child support agency, midwives, tribal enrollment, and vital records staff in participating agencies will give the form to any parent who requests it. Hand out the form only after the person or couple has had a full verbal explanation of their rights and responsibilities associated with, and alternatives to, voluntary paternity establishment.

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Q. What does “full verbal explanation” mean?

- A. This means you must explain the key points of the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment form in person or over the phone. A video or audiotape may also be used to provide an explanation. Participating agencies must have a trained staff person available to answer questions. It is not enough just to hand a mother the form and refer her to the toll-free number. On the other hand, neither hospitals staff nor vital records staff are expected to give advice or to give any interpretation of the form beyond that provided in training from the State. Trained child support agency staff may be able to answer more in-depth questions.

Note that as of October 2001 the VPA form includes text quoted directly from Wisconsin statutes. You do *not* have to read those pages. Just point them out to clients who are interested in that level of detail.

Q. How hard should staff try to convince parents to sign the form?

- A. You should not try to “convince” anyone to sign. The process is a *voluntary* acknowledgement. If either parent has any doubts, they should not sign. If one or both of them have further questions, they should seek the services of a IV-D agency, or of a private attorney.

Q. What if they seem unsure about whether to sign?

- A. If you sense hesitancy, it might be a good idea to talk with the parents separately. They might want to ask about genetic tests, or there may be issues of abuse. Note the reasons to NOT sign the form, listed on the Rights and Responsibilities page. Voluntary Acknowledgment is designed for people who are sure who the father is, and who are sure that they want to use this out-of-court process.

Q. What if either parent does not seem competent to understand the form?

- A. State law does not provide for exceptions to who should receive the form in the hospital. However, a Notary Public should consider whether either the mother or the named father does not (even temporarily) have the capacity to understand the content of the VPA and to realize the consequences of signing it. If he or she does not, consider not offering the form at that time, or do not notarize the signature. (Note again that a minor must have his or her parent or guardian cosign the form.)

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Q. Parents sometimes ask other complex legal questions about paternity and support. What should we tell them?

- A. Hospital staff, midwives, tribal enrollment and vital records staff should acknowledge that the person has asked a good question but that you don't know the answer and cannot give legal advice. For further clarification or information, the parents should contact their local child support agency (the agency in the county where the mother or father lives—see appendix for list of child support agencies.) For legal advice, the parents or any concerned party should consult an attorney.

Q. What if one or both parent changes his or her mind and asks the hospital not to send the form in after it has been signed?

- A. Once the form has been signed by both parties before a Notary it is a legal document. If the couple asks to keep it, it is their choice if both agree. If the Acknowledgment is in the hospital's possession, there appears to be a statutory obligation for the hospital to file it.

The state recognizes, however, that the hospital has a primary obligation to maintain the relationship as health care provider, and that use of this Acknowledgment is intended to be completely voluntary. If both parties, or just the mother (your patient), clearly want to retract this statement, weigh the situation considering the hospital's statutory duty, the benefits to the child, and your provider/patient relationship with the mother. The original document, once signed, should never be destroyed, but rather kept with the medical record if not mailed.

Q. What if either parent changes his or her mind after the V.P.A. form has been filed with the State Vital Records office?

- A. If the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment has been filed with the State Vital Records office and one or both parents later questions its validity, either parent can rescind the Acknowledgment by completing a "Request to Withdraw Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment" form. A parent should submit the signed and notarized Request to Withdraw, with the correct fee, within 60 days after filing and before any court order is entered regarding support or custody.

If it has been more than 60 days after filing, or 60 days after a parent turns 18 (whichever is later), a party wanting to overturn the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment would have to file a court case, alleging fraud, duress, or mistake of fact. This is an issue for which the parents should consult an attorney.

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Q. Does a hospital have to provide a Notary Public? What about a child support agency or vital records office?

- A.** Yes, under state law the hospital must provide the opportunity to have the form notarized while in the hospital. Reasonable accommodations are expected, by making notary services available seven days a week, on sufficient shifts that any parent would have access some time during their postpartum stay.

Under federal regulation, child support agencies, midwives, and local registers that participate in the PATH program must offer notary public services also.

Q. What are the responsibilities of a Notary?

- A.** See the Notary Public Information booklet (enclosed) for information about the process of becoming a notary and the responsibilities involved. Applications are filed with the Secretary of State, and the notary must be “bonded” for \$500. Each notary must also have an official seal.

In notarizing the affidavit, you must ask the parties for proof of identification—ask the father, and the mother if she is no longer a patient at the time of signing the Acknowledgment. Ask each signer if he/she understands what is being signed, and if he/she swears that the information on the form is true. If the signer does not speak English, you may proceed with the notarization if you are certain the signer understands the content of the document and realizes the consequences of signing it.

If a parent or guardian of a minor parent signs the form, the “grandparent” must also have a Notary witness his or her signature.

Process of completing and filing the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment

Q. What if the mother wants to use the form but the father is unable to sign it at the same time?

- A.** A hospital staff person should check the form for accuracy and witness the mother’s signature, if she wants to sign while she’s still a patient. If the mother signs the form in a child support, tribal enrollment, or vital records office, or with a midwife, it can be sent to wherever the father resides. The other signature can be done in front of any notary. The couple may mail the form to the State Vital Records office by themselves. Remind them to re-read the instructions and pay close attention to accuracy. It is helpful, but not mandatory, for the hospital to provide the couple with a pre-addressed envelope to ensure timely follow-through on the part of the new parents.

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Q. Do both parents have to sign on the same form?

- A. Yes, both parents and any grandparent or guardian signatures must be on the same Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment form. The guardian must sign at the same time as the minor parent and be witnessed by the same notary. Any exceptions would need to be addressed by the State Vital Records office.

Q. Who can name the child?

- A. The unmarried mother, as long as no one else has been assigned legal custody, is the only person who has the right to make the final decision about the name of the infant. The couple may agree on a name, but the paternity acknowledgment itself does not give the father the right to make the decision about the infant's name. The baby does not have to be named after the father, even if they sign an Acknowledgment. It is quite common for the child to have the mother's last name.

S.769.15 provides that a parent may change the name of a child within the first year, but only if they have sole legal custody.

S.767.51(3m) allows the court to order a hyphenated last name for the child, only in paternity cases that are decided by the court in contested cases. If a couple files a VPA, and neither party rescinds it, the court will not decide paternity under that statute.

Q. If the mother did not name the baby on the original birth certificate, what should they put in the top line of the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment?

- A. The top line should list the child's name as it appears on the most up-to-date version of the birth record. If the hospital submitted the record as "unnamed" then the top line should say "unnamed" and list the mother's last name as the child's temporary last name. If the parents have chosen a name for the baby, they may use Section II to add that, without a name-change fee in the first year after birth.

Q. Can the hospital just enter the father's name on the birth certificate after obtaining a signed Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment?

- A. No. The hospital may not put the father's name on the birth certificate/worksheet/electronic registration just because the man has signed a paternity acknowledgment. This can only be done at the State Records office.

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Q. How long should we advise couples to wait before requesting a birth certificate from the State Vital Records office, so that it will include the father's name as added via this Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment?

- A. It is best for parents to wait at least 20 working days before requesting a new birth certificate from the local registrar, in order to allow time for data entry, mail delays, etc.

If the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment is sent directly to the State Vital Records office with a check for the appropriate amount, updated birth certificates will be mailed to the mother within about 15 working days.

Q. Can the father obtain a copy of his infant's birth certificate, if he has signed the acknowledgment?

- A. As long as his name is entered on the birth certificate as the father of the child, he may obtain a certified copy of the child's birth certificate. Before his name is entered on the birth certificate as the father, he may not obtain a copy of the child's birth certificate.

Q: What if the couple does not have a checkbook to pay the filing fee?

- A: The hospital or local office could make out a check to the State Vital Records office and attach it to the Acknowledgment when you mail it to the State Vital Records office. Hospitals should use a separate check for each Acknowledgment sent, because if there is an error on a form both the form and check are returned to the mother.

Q. What if either the mother or the alleged father is under age 18?

- A. Wisconsin law does not prohibit minors from signing the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment. However, a parent or legal guardian of a minor parent must also sign the form in the presence of a notary public.

When minors are involved, there are sometimes questions about statutory rape, or about grandparent liability. Because of that, the parties may want to seek private legal advice, or seek the services of the county child support agency to establish paternity when either parent is a minor.

Although this law is not often used, when a baby is dependent on public assistance and the father is under 18, his parents can be ordered to pay child support until he reaches age 18.

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Q. What if the mother is married to someone she believes is not the father?

- A. The Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment can only be used if the mother is unmarried at the time of the baby's birth, and was not married at any time during her pregnancy. If the mother was married during the period of time from conception to birth, the husband's name must be listed on the original birth certificate, and must be removed through a court action before the alleged biological father's paternity status can be established on the birth certificate.

Q. What if the mother is competent, but she isn't sure who the real father is?

- A. This form should not be used if there is more than one possible father of the child. All mothers should be told that every man must be considered a possible father if they had sexual relations during the "conceptive period," that is, generally, the time from 240 to 300 days before the due date. The local child support agency provides paternity establishment procedures that include genetic testing to exclude or identify probable fathers.

Q. Can the couple use the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment for older children?

- A. Yes, if an older child does not have a father listed on his or her birth certificate, the PATH process can be used for these children. Any participating hospital, midwife, local child support agency, vital records office, or tribal enrollment office can assist with signing and filing a form for those children also. If a family used a tan or yellow form to acknowledge paternity for a child born before May 1, 1998, they could use the updated form to strengthen the legal status of the paternity establishment.

Q. What if the father lives in another state, or is in the military or incarcerated?

- A. The form can be mailed to the other parent's location. That parent should use the toll-free number on the form to listen to the explanation of rights and responsibilities before signing. A Notary Public in the other state, country, or institution would have to witness that person's signature.

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Q. Can the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment process be used for an infant that has died?

- A. Yes, this can be an appropriate process even if the infant has died, as long as the birth was registered with the State Vital Records office. However, if the child was “stillborn,” there is no birth certificate and therefore no formal Paternity process.

Best Practice Tips

- Use the yellow folders with as many pamphlets as you find helpful. But put the pamphlets in a different side than the VPA form itself.
- If a parent does not have a social security number (she is an alien, or has a religious exemption), write “none” in that space instead of leaving it blank.
- You may give a photocopy of the signed form to each parent, but write “COPY” on it. Only the original can be filed with the State Vital Records office.
- Many hospitals and child support agencies pay the filing fee for parents who cannot afford it.
- It is helpful, but not mandatory, for the hospital to provide the couple a pre-addressed envelope, to ensure timely follow through on the part of the new parents if they don’t complete the form while in the hospital.

Contacts

For questions about the legal process of voluntary paternity acknowledgment, and the alternatives, contact the local **child support agency*** or the **State of Wisconsin Bureau of Child Support**.

For questions about the mechanics of completing and filing the Acknowledgment or Withdrawal form, contact **the State of Wisconsin Vital Records** office.

<http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/bcs/cslis.htm>

Notes

Section 3: Administrative Issues

Notes

Notary Public Services

To become a notary public, follow the process explained in the booklet, “Notary Public Information,” printed by the Office of the Secretary of State. The URL for the Secretary of State's website is:

<http://www.sos.state.wi.us/notary.htm>

All application forms and the informational brochure can be downloaded from that site.

Best Practice Tip: If a parent cannot sign the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment in your office or facility, but wants to sign it later, it is helpful if you let them know where Notary services are available locally. For example: (create your own list in Notes>)

Process for payment of incentive

When the State of Wisconsin Vital Records office receives a Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment form, it is checked for completeness and accuracy, and matched against existing birth records. If the form meets filing standards, and the correct fee is included, the child's birth certificate is updated and the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment form is filed.

If a hospital's name is written or stamped on the back of the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment form, the records manager in Vital Records will enter the name of the hospital into the database.

On a quarterly basis, the State of Wisconsin Vital Records office sends to the Department of Workforce Development a list of each Acknowledgment filed in the past three months. DWD sends a check to each hospital, using database information that was submitted by the hospital.

The incentive payment is \$20 per acknowledgment that is correctly filed within 60 days after the child's birth. Along with its quarterly check, a hospital receives a list showing the name of each baby and mother for whom an Acknowledgment was filed within 60 days. You may use this to track your participation rate. The list will also note the number of Acknowledgments received and correctly filed from your hospital, but after the 60-day time limit.

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Keeping your agency or facility information up-to-date in the State database

In order for DWD to pay hospitals and to keep all entities up-to-date regarding policies, new literature, etc., it is necessary for DWD to have accurate information about your facility. Submit corrections to:

Bureau of Child Support, PATH Coordination
PO Box 7935
Madison, WI 53707-7935
FAX 608 261-4413

Information needed to process payments includes:

- the name and address for remittances, and
- the Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN).

Information needed for all PATH entities includes:

- the PATH contact person at each facility,
- their first class mailing address and phone number, and
- a street address to mail packages
- email address if available
- FAX number if available.

Notes

Section 4: Forms

All forms and information materials used in the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment program are provided by the State of Wisconsin at no cost to participants. Below are lists of forms that **must** be used, and other materials that **may** be used by facilities and agencies participating in the program. You can preview many of these brochures on the BCS website at:

<http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/bcs/pubs/pubtitle.htm>

Forms that Must be Given to Parents

Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment form (HCF 5024) Request to Withdraw Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment (if a parent asks for a form) (HCF 5029). These forms will be provided only to agencies or facilities that participate in the PATH program and have been trained by the State of Wisconsin. Materials listed above should NOT be duplicated because revisions might have been made at the state level. Whenever revisions are made, the state will distribute a supply to each participating entity, with instructions to destroy obsolete existing stock.

Forms that SHOULD be given to parents

1. Yellow folder: “To New Moms and Dads”
2. Wisconsin Child Support program booklet
3. Facts about your child’s birth certificate (DOH)

Materials available for additional information

1. Paternity: What Mothers Need to Know
2. Paternity: What Fathers Need to Know
3. When Teens Become Parents (newspaper format)
4. Help Your Baby Get a Step Ahead in Life (brochure and poster)
5. Help Your Baby Get a Step Ahead in Life (poster)
6. Could You Be My Father (brochure and poster)

Glossary

Acknowledgment:

Custody:

IV –D: (pronounced 'four dee')

Legitimation:

Physical placement:

V. P.A.:

Training Notes